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POLAND: Internees Reject Exile

A leading Catholic intellectual in Krakow who counsels Solidarity internees has told [REDACTED] that the vast majority consider accepting the regime's offer of exile tantamount to desertion. He claims that Solidarity has been holding votes in the camps to formulate a uniform policy and to present the majority opinion to the authorities. In a statement reportedly smuggled to the West, internees in one camp denounced the government offer as blackmail and called for an investigation by international human rights groups. Meanwhile, the government is putting pressure on internees and their families to leave Poland. [REDACTED]

Comment: The regime's ploy to rid itself of Solidarity militants and a major international embarrassment is backfiring. Solidarity will use this emotional issue to revitalize its organizing efforts. The offer also is again focusing international attention on human rights violations and earning new criticism from the West. [REDACTED]

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